Boston Public Library

LatinoLife2006:

BOOKS ABOUT THE HISPANIC EXPERIENCE

Booklists for Adults

FICTION

Accidental Love
by Gary Soto.
When fourteen-year-old "tough girl" Marisa falls in love with geeky chess player Rene, she is inspired to improve her grades and her attitude.

Becoming Latina in 10 Easy Steps
by Lara Ríos.
Shocked to discover she's only half-Mexican, Marcela sets out to prove she can be just as Latina as the next chica.

+ Captain of the Sleepers
by Mayra Montero.
Andrés finally learns the truth about J.T. Bunker, the man who had an affair with his mother during the Puerto Rican Independence Movement.

Cellophane: A Novel
by Marie Arana.
Don Victor discovers the recipe for cellophane at his paper factory in Peru; shortly thereafter his family develops a strange compulsion for truth-telling.

Divas Don't Yield: Four Chicas, One Car, Tons of Baggage--: A Novel
by Sofía Quintero.
Four college-age friends en route to a women's conference must deal with car trouble, overbearing mothers, and their own feelings for each other.

+ The Eagle's Throne: A Novel
by Carlos Fuentes.
In 2020 Mexico, the White House cuts off Mexico's telecommunications, forcing politicians and others to resort to communication through letter writing.

The Finishing School
by Michele Martinez.
New York City prosecutor Melanie Vargas investigates the deaths of two teenage prep school students while trying to resist the temptation of FBI agent Dan O'Reilly.

The House of Paper
by Carlos María Domínguez.
After his friend is killed while holding an inscribed book, the narrator journeys through Argentina and Uruguay to find the book's sender who seems to have disappeared.

+ Isle of Passion
by Laura Restrepo.
When the residents of a small Pacific island are abandoned after the Mexican Revolution, they are left to the mercies of nature and each other.

La Perdida
by Jessica Abel.
In this graphic novel, Carla, an American estranged from her Mexican father, heads to Mexico City to find herself.

Last Evenings on Earth
by Roberto Bolaño.
These short stories set in Chilean communities in Latin America and Europe are connected by themes of exile, alienation and failed relationships.

+ Make Him Look Good
by Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez.
The life of Latin pop star Ricky Biscayne is dominated by six women: his publicist, business partner, wife, lover, childhood sweetheart, and illegitimate daughter.

The Man Who Could Fly and Other Stories
by Rudolfo A. Anaya.
These mystical and spiritual folktales by an award-winning Chicano are rooted in the New Mexican plains.

Massacre River
by René Philoctète.
Dominican Republic, 1937: The lives of Pedro and his Haitian wife, Adèle, change abruptly when Generalissimo Trujillo orders the slaughter of all "Haitian devils."

+ Memories of My Melancholy Whores: A Novel
by Gabriel García Márquez.
In 1950's Colombia, on the eve of his 90th birthday, a journalist decides his gift to himself will be a night with an adolescent prostitute.

Night of Sorrows
by Frances Sherwood.
Malintzín, an Aztec princess, is sold as a slave to Hernán Cortés and becomes his lover and translator while he attempts to conquer Tenochtitlán.

Our Lives Are the Rivers: A Novel
by Jaime Manrique.
This fictional portrayal of Manuela Sáenz details her fight for South America's independence, her love affair with Simón Bolívar, and her eventual exile to Peru.

Pursuit: An Inspector Espinosa Mystery
by L. A. García-Roza.
In Brazil, a psychiatrist's daughter disappears with one of his patients, a somewhat unstable man. Is it a kidnapping or something else?

Saving the World: A Novel
by Julia Alvarez.
Latina writer Alma becomes obsessed with the true story of a 19th-century mission to eradicate smallpox in Central America.

**** Sister Chicas: A Novel***
by Lisa Alvarado.
While working on their Chicago high school's newspaper, three teenage girls form close friendships that help them travel the rocky road of adolescence.

Sunstroke
by Jesse Kellerman.
Gloria Mendez secretly loves her boss. When he disappears on a Mexican vacation, she searches for him and discovers his hidden, not-so-pretty past.

HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Betrayed: The Assassination of Digna Ochoa
by Linda Diebel.
In 2001 Mexican human rights lawyer Ochoa was shot dead. The government ruled it a suicide. This book exposes the depth of the cover-up.
HV6535.M43M483 2006x

Brutal Journey: The Epic Story of the First Crossing of North America
by Paul Schneider.
Account of the eight-year ordeal of the Narváez expedition. Nearly 400 started the journey, only four survived.
E125.N3S36 2006

Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism
by Greg Grandin.
This study explores the significance of the relationship between Latin America and the U.S. and reveals its effect on the current administration's foreign policy. F1418.G66 2006

+ ***Enrique's Journey***
by Sonia Nazario.
Enrique's mother left him years ago in Honduras to find work in the U.S.; the author retraces his difficult and dangerous trip to find her.
E184.H66N397 2006

Gordito Doesn't Mean Healthy: What Every Latina Mother Needs to Know to Raise Fit, Happy, Healthy Kids
by Claudia González and Lourdes Alcañiz.
Written by a nutritionist and a health reporter, this book gives diet and lifestyle guidance for mothers confronting the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. RJ206.G56 2006

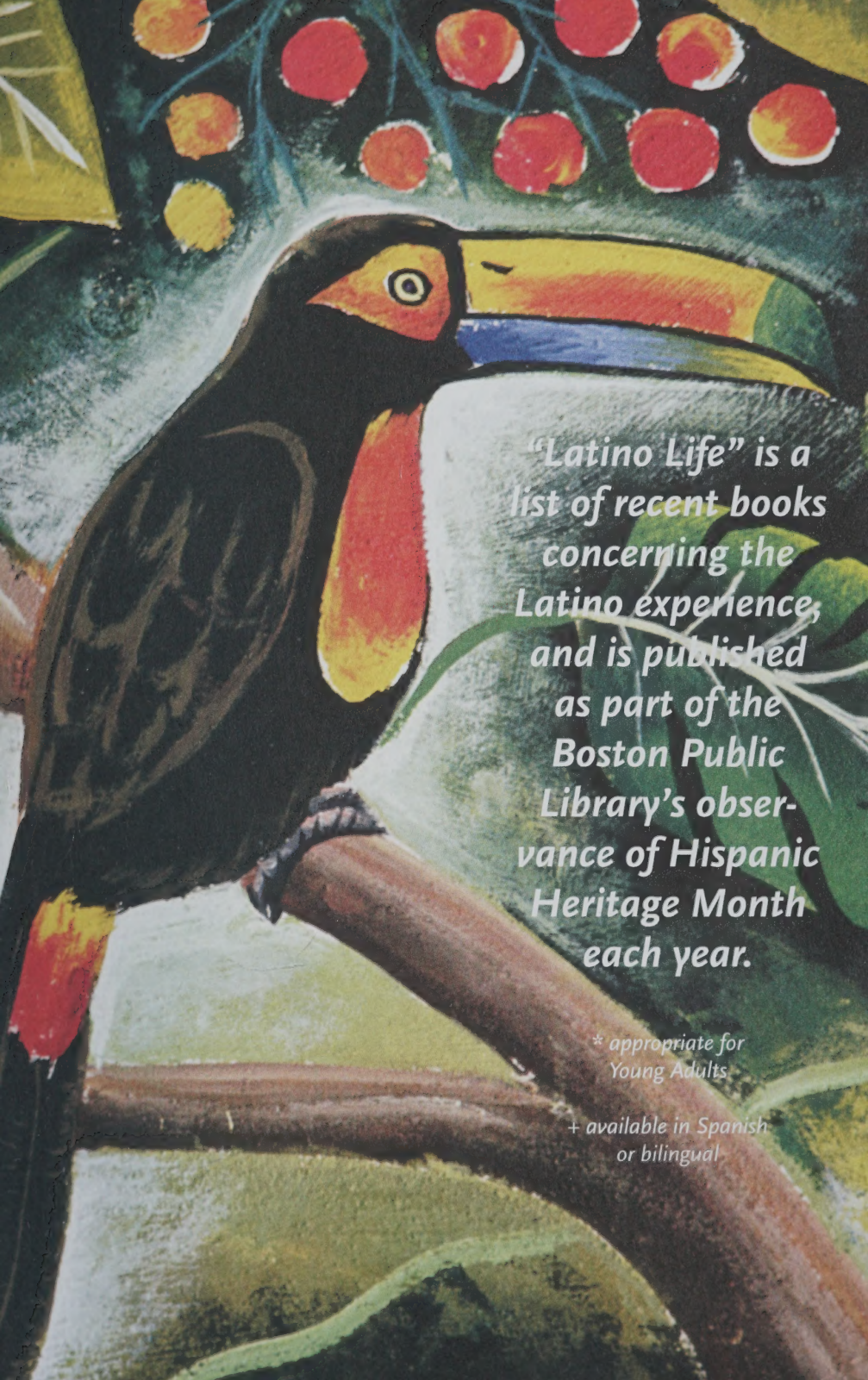
The Man Who Invented Fidel: Castro, Cuba, and Herbert L. Matthews of The New York Times
by Anthony DePalma.
Reporter Matthews, who for years wrote in favor of Castro's revolution, ultimately became a scapegoat when Castro revealed his true political affiliations.
PN4874.M4836D47 2006

Pedro, Carlos, and Omar: The Story of a Season in the Big Apple and the Pursuit of Baseball's Top Latino Stars
by Adam Rubin.
This in-depth look at the 2005 baseball season focuses on the Mets and the influence of the team's Latino general manager and players.
GV865.A1R83 2006x

Tropicana Nights: The Life and Times of the Legendary Cuban Nightclub
by Rosa Lowinger and Ofelia Fox.
The Tropicana was a destination for celebrities, mobsters and tourists looking for excitement. This history of the club covers its last days before the revolution. PN1968.C9L68 2005

The Venezuelan Revolution: 100 Questions—100 Answers
by Chesa Boudin, Gabriel González, and Wilmer Rumbos.
Presented in topical chapters, this book offers answers to political, economic and social questions about Venezuela. F2328.B68 2006x

Whispering in the Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization
by William Powers.
An aid worker recounts the struggle between Bolivia's indigenous peoples and the interests of a changing global economy and corrupt government.
HC185.E5P69 2006



"Latino Life" is a list of recent books concerning the Latino experience, and is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month each year.

* appropriate for Young Adults

+ available in Spanish or bilingual

BIOGRAPHY

Between Worlds: The Making of an American Life
by Bill Richardson with Michael Ruby.
Raised in Mexico City, this son of an American father and Mexican mother is now the governor of New Mexico and an important figure in the Democratic Party. F801.4.R53A3 2005

+ Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero
by David Maraniss.
This biography details the myth and the reality of the Puerto Rican native considered by many to be the greatest Latino player in the major leagues.
GV865.C45M355 2006

Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana
by Demetria Martínez.
Author Martinez reveals her deeply personal views on many topics, including religion, political activism, poetry writing, and the Spanish language and its place in her America.
PS3563.A7333337Z469 2005

Farmworker's Daughter: Growing Up Mexican in America
by Rose Castillo Guilbault.
The memoir of a young girl who left Mexico with her mother to build a new life in a California farming community in the 1960s. E184.M5G84 2005

+ Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big
by Jose Canseco.
When Cuban-born Canseco became a Major League Baseball player in the 1980s, his glamorous life as a rising star was based on an open secret: steroids. GV865.C313A3 2005

The Last Playboy: The High Life of Porfirio Rubirosa
by Shawn Levy.
This biography of the Dominican-born Rubi tells the fascinating story of his world-renown for nightclubbing, polo playing, and infamous womanizing in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s.
F1938.5.R83L48 2005

+ Miracle in the Andes: 72 Days on the Mountain and My Long Trek Home
by Nando Parrado with Vince Rause.
Parrado, one of a Uruguayan rugby team whose plane crashed in the Andes, tells of their ordeal and his determination to climb for help across forty-five miles of frozen wilderness.
TL553.9.P37 2006

Space Between The Stars: A Memoir
by Deborah Santana.
A memoir of self-discovery, love, and spiritual awakening by the wife of music icon Carlos Santana.
ML420.S226A3 2005

Tania: Undercover with Che Guevara in Bolivia
by Ulises Estrada.
Written by an organizer of the Bolivian guerrilla mission of Che Guevara, this book explores the brief life and impressive accomplishments of communist revolutionary Tania.
F2849.22.B8E77 2005x

EXPRESSIONS

Chicken Soup for the Latino Soul: Celebrating La Comunidad Latina
compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Susan C. Sánchez.
These inspirational stories highlight common cultural experiences, spirituality, and wisdom while focusing on sacrifice and struggle for American identity. E184.S75C485 2005

Consideration of the Guitar: New and Selected Poems, 1986-2005
by Ray González.
Southwestern desert landscapes, conflicts between border cultures, and animal mythology are all themes in this collection of poetry.
PS3557.O476C66 2005

Crafty Chica's Art de la Soul
by Kathy Cano-Murillo.
A variety of creative craft projects are introduced, ranging from colorful jewelry and elegant candles to hip Mexican coffee coasters.
TT157.C2183 2006

Daisy Cooks! Latin Flavors that Will Rock Your World
by Daisy Martinez with Chris Styler.
This collection of more than 200 recipes showcases the flavors, textures, and ingredients of Latin dishes.
TX716.A1M385 2005x

Dish & Tell: Life, Love, and Secrets
by the Miami Bombshells and Patricia San Pedro.
Six high-powered women provide real-world counsel for today's women on everything from sex and marriage to careers and spirituality.
HQ1439.M45S35 2005

Fiesta Latina: Fabulous Food for Sizzling Parties
by Rafael Palomino with Arlen Gargagliano.
This collection of sixty Latin-inspired recipes offers taste-tempting appetizers, main courses, and desserts.
TX716.A1P353 2006

Mambo Mixers: Recipes for 50 Luscious Latin Cocktails and 20 Tantalizing Tapas
by Arlen Gargagliano.
This collection of "south of the border" cocktails instructs readers on how to prepare such drinks as the Kiwi Caipirinha, Classic Cuban Daiquiri, and Peruvian Winter Wine. TX951.G25 2005

My Nature is Hunger: New & Selected Poems, 1989-2004
by Luis J. Rodríguez.
This Mexican-American poet portrays the tough life of the barrio in his first collection in five years.
PS3568.O34879M9 2005

Pomegranate Seeds: Latin American Jewish Tales
by Nadia Grosser Nagarajan.
These thirty-four folktales span the 500 years of Jewish presence in Latin America and the Caribbean.
GR98.N27 2005

Watercolor Women, Opaque Men: A Novel in Verse
by Ana Castillo.
These stories dramatize the heroine's struggle through poverty.
PS3553.A8135W38 2005

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